

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 /162 R

DRAFTED BY SCI/EN:DKING:EMI

APPROVED BY SCI/EN:WTRUEHEART

AF/PPS:JBLANE (PHONE)

EUR/SOV:RPARDON (PHONE)

ARA/USOAS:EMCALLISTER (PHONE)

IO/UCS:RNOBBE (PHONE)

EA:DLJAMESON (PHONE)

IO/UNESCO:WFDECLERCQ

NEA:WSBUTCHER (PHONE)

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R 202154Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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PARIS ALSO FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNESCO

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF UNESCO/MAB BIOSPHERE RESERVES

1. IN 1970 UNESCO LAUNCHED AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM CALLED MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) THAT THE USG HAS SUPPORTED STRONGLY. THE PROGRAM IS DIRECTED BY A 25-NATION INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) COMPOSED OF THE ADDRESSEES, WHICH AT U.S. INVITATION WILL HAVE ITS THIRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON SEPTEMBER 17-24. ONE OF THE 13 MAB PROJECTS (NO. 8 ENTITLED CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS AND OF THE GENETIC MATERIALS THEY CONTAIN) PROPOSES THAT COUNTRIES IDENTIFY SPECIFIC LOCATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED AS "BIOSPHERE RESERVES". THESE RESERVES WOULD BE USED (A) FOR PRESERVING GENETIC RESOURCES AND NATURAL AREAS, (B) AS LOCATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH, AND (C) AS SITES FOR ACQUIRING BASELINE AND MONITORING INFORMATION ON TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME'S GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM.

2. AT THE RECENT SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW, THE US AND SOVIETS AGREED THAT "DESIRING TO EXPAND COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WHICH IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT UNDER THE US-USSR AGREEMENT SIGNED ON MAY 23, 1972, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE' INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME CONDUCTED ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO), BOTH SIDES AGREED TO DESIGNATE IN THE TERRITORIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES CERTAIN NATURAL AREAS AS BIOSPHERE RESERVES FOR PROTECTING VALUABLE PLANT AND ANIMAL GENETIC STRAINS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ECOSYSTEMS, AND FOR CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NEEDED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ACTIONS CONCERNED WITH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. APPROPRIATE WORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS UNDERTAKING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOALS OF THE UNESCO PROGRAMME AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED US-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION."

3. THE US BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL NETWORK OF SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND WILL DESIGNATE SEVERAL SUCH LOCATIONS WITHIN THE US. MAN-ALTERED AS WELL AS NATURAL SITES WILL BE SELECTED TO PROVIDE FOR COMPARISON STUDIES ON THE EFFECT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON DIFFERENT BIOME TYPES. USG PLANS TO ANNOUNCE THESE SELECTIONS AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE ICC MENTIONED EARLIER AND HAVE INFORMED THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF OUR INTENT TO DO SO.

4. WE REQUEST POSTS INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES, AND/OR NATIONAL MAB COMMITTEES, AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE, OF THESE PLANS AND SUGGEST THAT THEY MIGHT WISH TO DESIGNATE BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN THEIR COUNTRIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IN SEPTEMBER. IF SUCH A GLOBAL NETWORK COULD BE ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS.

5. FOR BRAZIL, USG OFFICIALS HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH PAULO NOGUEIRA-NETO, SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. INGERSOLL

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**Type:** TE  
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